

City Links

newsletter

cambridge community services
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Spring/Summer 2001

WHAT'S NEW IN CITY LINKS

BY CITY LINKS PROGRAM DIRECTOR SANDRA CANAS

It seems like yesterday that City Links program was conceived, but nine years have gone by since we met our first group of students. This year kept us all very busy, and we managed to accomplish a lot. Students explored many city departments, and were hosted by Mayor Anthony Galluccio at Cambridge City Hall. We toured the State House and visited with Representative Timothy Toomey. Students volunteered in community service at the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Cambridge Senior Center. And, as always, classroom seminars featured professionals from a wide variety of careers, and we went on field trips to several colleges and university campuses.



Our students also got a special glimpse into the world of science and technology. For example, they visited with staff of local firms including Iphrase Technologies and the Teradyne Corporation. They learned to create their own holographic images at the MIT Museum, and studied new cell-growth technologies at an MIT Biotechnology lab. They also attended a Website Institute, and updated and redesigned the City Links Website.

In addition to all of this, many City Links participants were here at CCS every Tuesday and Thursday evening meeting with tutors and mentors, not only to study and do homework, but to prepare for continuing their education beyond high school. Finally, we all made sure to enjoy the arts and just have some fun, attending museums, movies, the Boston Ballet, and events and celebrations for students, mentors, parents and families.

We at Cambridge Community Services are very proud of our City Links students and their commitment to the program and to their futures. I hope you will enjoy reading their thoughts and ideas in the pages that follow.

City Links provides new immigrant youth with training and exposure to public sector careers, assists them to access post-secondary opportunities, and empowers them to become community leaders. The program features intensive internships in municipal government agencies, extensive one-to-one guidance from volunteer mentors, a rigorous for-credit course, individualized tutoring and counseling, and parent/family support.

City Links is a program of Cambridge Community Services
in collaboration with the City of Cambridge's Office of Workforce Development,
and the Bilingual Program of the Cambridge Public Schools.

City Links

Student Internship Placement List

2000-2001

Sana Akhtar (Pakistan)
City of Cambridge Assessors Office

Nawal Gacimi (Morocco)
City of Cambridge Finance Department

Yasmine Andre (Haiti)
Cambridge Community Foundation

Wladimir Lahens (Haiti)
Cambridge Health Alliance Interpreter Services

Mistere Ayele (Ethiopia)
City of Cambridge Finance Department

Sandy LesPerance (Haiti)
Cambridge Hospital Surgical Specialties

Luvine Bernadin (Haiti)
Cambridge Hospital Organizational Development Dept.

Anthony Melo (Brazil)
Martin Luther King Jr. Community School Program

Claude Bonnet (Haiti)
Cambridge Public Library, Main Branch

Ardo Mohamed (Somalia)
Cambridge Police Department

David Cabral (Cape Verde)
Longfellow Community School Program

Barbara Noel (Haiti)
Longfellow Community School

Guirlane Cantave (Haiti)
City of Cambridge Elections Commission

Juan S. Oviedo (Colombia)
City of Cambridge Management Information Systems

Julio Diaz (Peru)
Assessors Office, City of Cambridge

Larissa Reis (Brazil)
Cambridge Police Department, Detail Office

Frantzy Duperval (Haiti)
City of Cambridge Department of Human Services Program

Marina Sanchez (México)
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, International Student Center

Claudia Gerardin (Haiti)
City of Cambridge Women's Commission

David Jean (Haiti)
City of Cambridge Senior Citizen Center

FRIENDSHIPS IN CITY LINKS

By **MARINA SANCHEZ**

When I first joined the City Links program I did not know anybody, but now I know everyone, I speak to everyone in the program, we have fun together and all the students are really friendly and really nice people. Everyone that you talk with make you feel good. Sometimes in other programs you feel lonely because no body pays attention to you, but this program is different because every one is really cool, including the teacher Sandra Cañas. We have fun but at the same time we learn.

When we all get together we have fun. The most important thing is that no body is making faces at you and you feel comfortable being there. And like me I never like to be absent to the seminars that we have every Wednesday because I know that I am



MARINA SANCHEZ + LARISSA REIS



CITY LINKS VISITS TEADYNE CORPORATION.



CITY LINKS STUDENTS COLLABORATE DURING WEB DESIGN CLASS.

The City Links Class

By **Larissa Reis**

My name is Larissa Reis, I'm from Brazil. I am in the 10th grade at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School. I have been in the City Links program since the beginning of the year and I am in the City Links class. One thing we do a lot in our class is projects. First we do research, and then we get to read everything and pick the most important things about the topic we are writing like I did about government programs such as Social Security. After we do the first draft and the teachers check and give us feedback, we go back and do our final paper. When we are done, we get to find pictures about our topic and do visuals, then we get to write notes in note cards to do presentations. On the note cards we write different things about our topic, what have we learned and what we are going to speak.

Another thing we do in class is debates about important issues happening in the United States, like we did about the economy, and the labor force. We have also learn about the federal government, the constitution, the Executive Branch, Judicial and Legislative Branch.

In our third quarter we examine the state government. Now we are going to learn about city government, immigration history and later about leadership and community service projects.

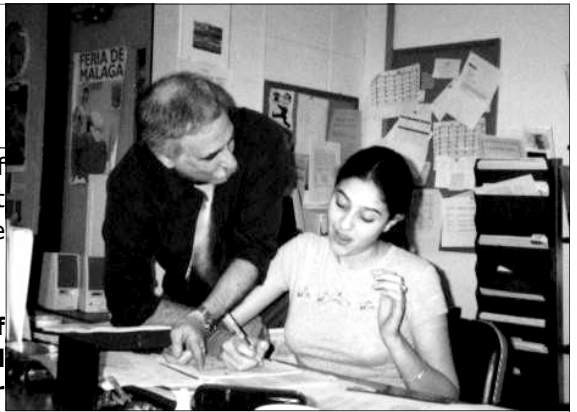
This class is very interesting and important to everyone who wants to learn about the United States. I have learned a lot of important things that I know will be helpful to me in my future.

the teacher of the year

By MISTERE AYELE

Most of the time students talk about their teachers, how they are or if they are nice in different ways. Being a teacher is the most difficult job because teachers are the basis of everything, without them there is no world.

Everyone I know in school talks about a particular teacher, if you go around and ask every student that took his class and has seen or talk to him, they will tell you what a great teacher he is. His name is Mr. Clayton. Mr. Clayton speaks about seven languages; he studied history and languages, and has been teaching in CRLS for 30 years. I was so surprised by his talents. Some teachers will yell at you or do not care what you feel about things that cause misunderstandings between teachers and students, but Mr. Clayton knows how to talk to teenagers and help solve their problems. The second thing that amazed me is his interest in teaching bilingual students like myself.



Marina Sanchez works with Arnold Clayton at the CRLS International Students' Center.

Mr. Clayton always has a way to make students focus in their schoolwork. He is a hard worker, I have known him for three years and I have never seen him or heard him say he is tired of teaching. And he is never tired of helping students who do not know what to do with big problems, especially students who are new to this country and do not know the language, the culture, and the way of living. Mr. Clayton is our saver, a true teacher.

When I see students from CRLS outside of school the first thing they ask me about is Mr. Clayton. He is in every students book. I think he has helped more than 5000-6000 immigrants. He has given all the students a gift, a gift that stays in our mind forever, a gift of education and knowledge about our new home the United States.

Mr. Clayton, all the students thank you a lot, you are one of the teachers that fight everyday for the existence of the bilingual program. You are a teacher who inspires students to be somebody. You have given all the students part of your life by giving us your time. Personally I will always remember you as a key to the door you opened,

Working and Learning Experiences

By Sana Akhtar

The most significant experience that I had in my life, which affected my academic performance seriously, was my family's immigration to America. I left a school where I was a top performer, and had to learn how to succeed in a new system. I was always one of the best students at my Pakistani school. I received best student awards in both elementary and high school, and I enjoyed the respect of both my parents and teachers. It was a difficult transition from this environment to an American high school.

The change to speaking and reading English was the most difficult part of studying in America. I studied and was familiar with English in Pakistan, but had never used it in everyday life. This meant that simple things like understanding assignments and finishing readings took me much longer. The problem was less extreme in my ESL classes. In ESL Human biology, a best student award gave me hope that I would continue to do well at school. However, I learned very quickly that I still had challenges when I took a regular Anatomy and Physiology class. I enjoyed and understood the material, but needed a little more time and help than other students.



Sana's internship is at the City of Cambridge Assessor's Office.

During a period when I needed more time to focus on studies, I found myself with more responsibility as well. School hours were longer and, more importantly, I had the added burden of my service hours required for the National Honor Society. With two hours spent at work everyday after school, I had less time to complete the schoolwork that I was already having trouble with. I am proud to say that I have worked to get over a lot of the difficulties I mention above. I read as much as I can, and I am always trying to learn new words. I learned to write long papers all by myself, and to finish independent projects. Working has taught me how to manage my time well, and has made me much more confident. Overall, I think I am a much more mature and independent person now than I was a few years ago. The difficulties I face as a foreign student have influenced my academic performance, but I have no doubt now that I can succeed in the American educational system.

MUSIC IN OUR COUNTRIES

by julio diaz

Looking around my classroom I could find the diversity of culture in it. One important fact in culture is the musica, and each culture has their own. I will start talking about Haitian music not only because they are the largest number of classmates but also because of their popular music. Their music is the rap and the reggae, and it has become very popular all around the world. This kind of music is played with drums and its rhythm is smooth or sometimes funky.

On the other hand another very popular kind of music is Mexican; it is called ranchera. It is played by the famous mariachis or charros with trumpets, acoustic guitars and bass. The rhythm is very festive and it is to make fun; moreover, they are popular because they played in every Hispanic country because it is used to play in commemorative dates. Another Latin kind of music is the one from Colombia; it is the famous vallenato. It is played mostly in the popular zones, however nowadays it has become very popular in Colombia because it has been modernized and it is part of any party even in the whole Latin America.

Another kind of music is the Vietnamese one it is played mostly with string instruments that produces a smooth rhythm that is very well composed. It is mostly instrumental but it sometimes introduces solos. On the other side the Ethiopian music, which is pretty similar to the Moroccan one, is very exotic. This exoticness is produced by the instruments that are a mixture of drums, wind instruments, and guitars.

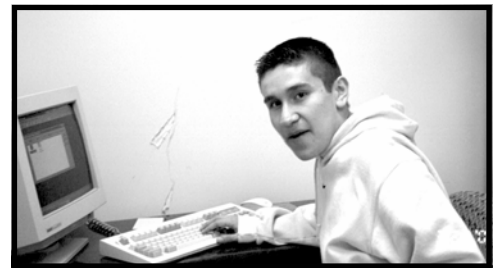
In conclusion I will say that each country has its own music and that means not only that we have to respect and appreciate each one of them but also that



The city links class visiting with City of Cambridge Mayor Anthony Gallucio.



City Links students teaching the Macarena to the seniors at the Cambridge Senior Center.



Juan Oviedo works as an intern at City of Cambridge Management Information Systems.

brave new world

a review by yasmine andre

One book I read this year caught and held my attention. While what is described in Brave New World isn't real, its prediction of the future brought up lots of questions that are relevant today. For example, what makes a person "real"? What makes us happy? How much are we brainwashed? Can science provide all the answers? When genetic engineering may lead to "custom babies" in our lifetime, are we that far away from Aldous Huxley's world?

Brave New World is novel full of meaningful issues concerning the future of science and technology. Set in 632 AF (After Ford), human beings in this utopia are made through the multiplication of eggs put in bottles until full development. History has been banished; nothing exists prior to Henry Ford's invention of the automobile. The Brave New Worlders don't believe in God. Instead, Henry Ford is the patriarch whom they revere.

In Brave New World, society is genetically split into five major classes. The Alphas are on top, followed by Betas, Deltas, Gammas, and Epsilons. Alphas are smart, intelligent, and physically awesome, while Epsilons are "too stupid to read and write" and are driven to the margin of society.

At a very early age, the controllers use "sleep lessons" to train the children to love themselves for what they are and to undermine the personal values of the lower classes. For instance, Lenina recalls the lesson she memorized when she was a little girl: "I'm really awfully glad I'm a Beta, because I don't work so hard. And then we are much better than the Gammas and Deltas. Gammas are stupid...Oh no; I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse." Based on those lines, one can see that this society is arbitrary and unfair.

How will the utopians find true happiness? Happiness in Brave New World is based on consuming mass-produced goods, and most importantly, the drug soma. The use of soma is consistent and daily. Soma gives the utopians instant gratification. They're encouraged to take soma whenever they are depressed. Instead of facing reality or finding real comfort, people take soma. The one man who warns against using soma is kicked out of society and eventually commits suicide.

As someone who is very interested in becoming an engineer, I found this a fascinating book. Properly speaking, Brave New World is a warning or a predic-



CITY LINKS VISITS WITH MIGUEL ALVAREZ, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AT UMASS BOSTON.

WHAT DO TEENAGERS WANT?

BY BARBARA NOEL

What do teenagers want? This is a very interesting question and I don't think there is one answer to this question in general. In this case I asked some teenagers and they all gave me different answers, but the main idea is "they all want to be independent." What I mean about this is they don't want their parents to tell them what to do or not do. They want to do whatever they want. Sometimes I would like to be independent myself, however I have a limit, because when I look around the school and the kids in it, I see what's happening because of bad influences, so I would rather have limits and have my parents tell me what to do. But not everyone was thinking of independence, I asked some bilingual student the same question, and I found that almost all of them were thinking about school and getting an education, which I thought is great.



CITY LINKS FIELD TRIP AT THE BOSTON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

moving to a new country

By LUVINE BERNADINE

Leaving our homes to go another country is not as easy as many people think. It takes courage, strength and self-discipline to live in a country that is not ours and that is totally different from our own country.

First, there is culture shock. Many people are from hot and medium temperature and when they come to the United States, the weather is so cold that people want to go back, especially old people.

The shock that young people like me face are even worse. First, when we go to school, we have not only to learn a new language but making new friends, which is not an easy thing to do since we don't speak the same language as the other kids. Second, the other students are always trying to make fun of us just because we have an accent. More, some of us may have left close relatives behind. Some of us may be living with our father and left our mother in our countries or vice versa. Sometimes, we are not even living with any of them. And if that is the case, we have to work to get money to provide our needs. We have to work and go to school at the same time, which is not an easy thing to do.

Even though the person who we live with is being good and nice to us, we still feel that we are missing something, our parents love. And sometimes when we keep thinking about them, it makes us feel so sad that we want to go back to our country.

It is a hard life, but I think it is a good experiment. The reason I said that is because it gives us a sense of responsibility. When we are with our parents, they are always there to tell us



claudia + luvine

IF YOU ARE BILINGUAL AND
LOOK FOR A GOOD TIME
OR A WAY TO SPEND A
HUNK OF YOUR QUALITY TIME,

CITY LINKS IS AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENT WHO NEED TO GET USED TO AMERICAN LIFE AND IT' LL GIVE YOU A DOZEN OF EXPERIMENT. CITY LINKS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR YEARS AND HAVE A LOT, LOT, LOT OF STUDENT AND MANY HAVE ALREADY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. IN CITY LINKS STUDENTS HAVE A LOT OF FUNZZZZZ.



city links students learning to make holograms at the mit museum

INTERVIEW WITH CITY LINKS SUPERVISOR CAROL HILL

By ANTHONY MELO

Hello, I am Anthony Melo, I am from Brazil, I am a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. I have been with the City Links Program for two years working as a teacher's assistant at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community School Program. My assignment for this newsletter was to interview my supervisor Carol Hill.

On her work experience:

Carol Hill has been working with the City of Cambridge for over 30 years in various departments; she has worked in Child Care and Human Services. As a supervisor of the King Community School, Carol Hill has gained experience over the years. At the age of 17 she worked as a reader with the Head Start Program, while attending Harvard for human management. Carol was also the director of the Priest School.

On Awards she has received in recognition for her work:

Carol has received many awards such as City of Cambridge, MASS State Black Caucus Award, Cambridge Community Center, Haymarket People's Fund and from other organizations.

On her interest in working with children:

Carol said she is interested in working with children because she feels is her destiny to work with community services and she has been doing it forever in her life.

On what she likes most about her job:

Carol thinks that communication with society is a treasure for her. What she loves the most about her job is her ability to coordinate and have productive activities and events helping to structure family and the community. Organizing parties at the King is one of her hobbies.

On what she does not like to do in her job, but she must do:

What she does not like about her job, but that she must do is the whole management and fiscal work. Carol does not like to deal with bureaucracy issues related with City Hall. But people feel that Carol knows how to interact with the city and get positive results.

On the best season to work with children:

Spring, it is a moderated weather helping kids with outside activities; they naturally have a good behavior during spring so everyone is having fun.

On her opinion about what activities kids like the most:



LARISSA REIS INTERNING AT THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DETAIL OFFICE.



JULIO DIAZ IS AN INTERN AT THE CAMBRIDGE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.



YASMINE ANDRE WORKS IN THE MIT LAB DURING A FIELD TRIP.

Internet

THE NEW GENERATION BEGINS

BY MÁRCIO CORRÊA

Internet has been used now for a few good years. While time passes newer things emerge, and others evolve. It all started as a way of finding information, through websites. After that came chats, then games, then interests, and now an individual can find almost anything he desires or wishes.

Websites are the number one use of Internet. The use of Internet by teens is increasing with the passing of years. With that more websites are emerging in order to fit their wants and interests. Yet one of the greatest interest and common things to look up online is Music, Anime (Japanese Animation) and very good sites who will help them with their homework quickly in order to save them hours of research.

Out there are websites, within them you can find a lot of websites offering software to make it easy for you to find the song you want in a fraction of the time you would by searching on search engines. Those websites which offer the revolutionary are Scour and Napster (the most famous one, and used by everybody). Napster, gotten through the website www.napster.com, and software known the most. With it you search only for songs and are able to download them. Scour is a much more different kind of software acquired through www.scour.com. With this software anyone is able to track not just music but movies and also pictures. Through these websites a person can make much more in half the time (considering the user is always online downloading something).

Anime is the newest thing going through out the hearts of America (well maybe hearts is too much of a stronger word, but true.) America's need for anime seems to grow more and more, and what better website to find Anime than Anime Pit Stop? Anime Pit Stops ([url: www.animepitstop.com](http://www.animepitstop.com)) is the number one search engine for anime. Know an anime? Well if it exists they have it. No more looking for anime or at least going to search engines, and getting more than an expected result.

All teenagers in school nowadays get "tons" of projects to do at home. History, Math, English, Science, etc. What ever it is, it has a project. The most helpful, and one of the best websites to find information quickly about the chosen topic, would be, www.emcarta.com. Number one rated site. Students tested, and students approved in time saving.

Websites can be very helpful whether trying to find software, whether finding interest, whether finding homework helpful sites. Sites who are made always serve a purpose, however there are too many to see them all.

My website is about anime and its url is <http://www.animehaven.com.br>.



City Links students work on their website with CRLS Graphic Arts Teacher Dan Owuso.

MOVIE REVIEWS

By Wladimir Lahens

VALENTINE: Great crew of actors with Neve Campbell. The movie has an ending that is going to make you think twice about who is the real killer.

SAVE THE LAST DANCE: Great romantic movie for couples of every age. The dance moves will make you want to strut your stuff inside the movie theater.

ANTI-TRUST: The story just gives us an idea of what is going to happen into the near future: the world is controlled and operated by computers. And who says a computer can't be a hero in a movie, also don't trust anyone.

THIRTEEN DAYS: Real-life story about John F. Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis. It will make you think about how hard life really was for John F. Kennedy dealing with the Russians.

KINGS OF COMEDY: Right down to earth funny that will make you laugh so hard you will cry. The funniest part of the movie is: They are telling real-life jokes.

BLESSED THE CHILD: Interesting story about a kid who would save humanity from all its sins. It is fun for the whole family especially if you like biblical stories.

SCARY MOVIE: It will make you laugh hard and it makes fun of every other horror movie new to these days. Not appropriate for children under eighteen.

X-MEN: Good action movie even though it is missing some characters and the whole concepts of the comic book story. It is fun for the whole family.



CITY LINKS VISITS UMASS BOSTON.

The Best Field Trip

BY CLAUDE BONNET

The best field trip I had been on with the City Links program was to the MIT Museum because I got to see some new technologies like robots, computers, etc. I was talking with a computer that can tell you the temperature of every state in the United States; there was another computer that can give you historical events that are happening in the whole world, or any definitions of a word in English language.

We went to another wing of the museum to see an exhibit call "Chaos" by Erick Heller. This is an exhibit of pictures of orbital configurations, wavelength, isotopes and many more that I had been studying in my chemistry class. I was very happy to visit the museum, and I know I learned many things.

Senior Year: A Pre-College Anxiety

BY CLAUDIA GERARDIN

Senior year is one of the most important year in someone's life. It is a major part of your life. It determines whether you are going to continue to flip burgers at McDonald's or make \$50,000-\$200,000/year. It is at this particular time you are overcome with anxiety because you have to decide what you want to do with your life.

Senior year is an overwhelming, stressful and at the same time exciting year. The thought of going to college is timorous, but thrilling. Before you become a college freshman, you see a little version of hell. You run here and there and everywhere looking for scholarships, financial aid, college applications, etc... Also, for some it is even more overwhelming because they don't even know where to apply.

When you are done with the applications, the waiting is even worse, you don't know if your top colleges will accept you. And when they accept you, you also don't know if the financial package will enable you to get in.

People say that senior year is the best year, but when you add up all of what I have mentioned above you see it differently. Maybe I will have some fun in May when I am done with all the college stuff and know where I am going.

